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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A 123/12

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REVIEWED

DATE 12/15/73

~~SECRET~~

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FOR INFO OF RACIAL

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Ambassy KABUL

August 2, 1973

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DOWNGRADING TO ( )

Certain Cultural Aspects of Afghan Coup

WGS:

PRINT, AF

E.O. 11652: N/A

Set out below is an internal Embassy memorandum which reveals insights to the July 17, 1973, coup d'etat which toppled King Zahir after 40 years on the Afghan Throne. Since telephones are always disconnected in such situations, those Embassies which have the dubious privilege of having their own radio net will find value in the report below which we know could be duplicated several times over.

WGS:CM

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SUBJECT: Suggested SITREP Seven to tune of 'Said the Shepherd Boy to the Mighty King'

1. (Reference)

Said the DCM to Ambassador -  
Do you hear what I hear?  
Do you hear what I hear?  
A King, a King, ousted in the night  
Said to be to public delight -  
Said to be to public delight.

2. Said Paul Kelly on the Bravo net -

Do you hear what I hear?  
Do you hear what I hear?  
A new curfew - said by Charlie Geo  
Is confirmed by bachas tonight  
Is confirmed by bachas tonight.

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3. Bravo nine's Brings everything  
What is that that I hear?  
What is this that I hear?  
A rumor rife, spreading through the night  
Are there any roadblocks in sight?  
Are there any roadblocks in sight?
4. All the while Radio Afghanistan  
Airs for Pashtun ears  
Airs for Pashtun ears  
A soap opera, fraught with joy and fright  
But saying naught of curfew tonight  
Saying naught of curfew tonight.
5. Meantime, in comes word from Bravo ten  
Forget the plans for beer  
Forget the plans for beer  
We've found some wine for dinner in the night  
So, Bravo ten come here and sit tight  
Bravo ten come here and sit tight.
6. In early morn Bravo nine's words crackle clear  
I detect a leak here  
I detect a leak here  
My pool, my pool, has surely runneth o'er  
Water's seeping under my door  
Water's seeping under my door.
7. That's the substance of our sitrep sever  
That's the atmosphere  
That's the atmosphere  
Our assessment is that things look bright  
As we cease reporting tonight  
As we cease reporting tonight."

NEWMAN

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